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**Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21**

# World Summit on Sustainable Development

## Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11

## Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

## I. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to launch a comprehensive and proactive public information campaign to raise global awareness about sustainable development while also building broad international support for the World Summit and its goals.

## II. Relationship of the proposed request to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

2. The activities referred to above would fall under programme 23, Public information, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and section 26, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Consistent with the position reflected in paragraph 26.9 of that programme budget section, no financial provision has yet been made for the promotional campaign of the World Summit on Sustainable Development referred to in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution.

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## III. Additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003

3. Public information activities would highlight the goals and purposes of the conference and sessions of its preparatory committee, with a view to attracting wide support and interest in it. The Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, would develop an information strategy. In this connection, general temporary assistance of $143,500 would be required in 2002 for coordination and implementation of the public information programme, including handling of media outreach and queries to interest journalists in the issues related to the Conference, to encourage the international news media to cover the Conference, along with media list updating and production of print materials, and to translate the English version into the five other official languages for the coverage of the Conference on the United Nations web site and for graphic design and translation.

4. Other requirements in the amount of $209,000 would provide for writing, translation, printing and distribution of kits, posters and follow-up publications in six official languages; production of two World Chronicle television programmes on the World Summit and a number of radio programmes; other promotional activities through the United Nations information centres, regional projects, special exhibits, and banners; and coverage of the Summit and the meetings of the Preparatory Committee through webcasting and the rental of relevant equipment. Therefore, total estimated costs for public information activities mentioned in paragraph 4 would amount to $352,500.

## IV. Potential for absorption

5. Resources required to implement the request cannot be covered from within the overall resources requested under section 26, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

## V. Contingency fund

6. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the approved programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities.

7. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 26 foreseen for the biennium 2002-2003 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement.

## VI. Action required by the General Assembly

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of $352,500 would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 26, Public information.